

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02649 291228Z

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7468

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2649

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: APRIL 29 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTING ON LEBANON

1. SYRIAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED STATEMENTS MADE BY FONMIN KHADDAM DURING HIS CURRENT TOUR OF GULF STATES. AL-THAWRAH BANNERED: "MESSAGES FROM PRES. ASAD TO LEADERS OF ARAB GULF STATES. KHADDAM DECLARES IN KUWAIT -- 'WE WILL NOT PERMIT CONSPIRACY IN LEBANON TO SUCCEED, AND SYRIA WILL TAKE DECISIVE DECISION TO PROTECT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND LEBANON'S UNITY. WE HAVE REJECTED AMERICAN OFFERS TO RETURN GOLAN IN EXCHANGE FOR DISENGAGEMENT WITH RESISTANCE.' " TISHRIIN HEADLINED: "LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS APPROACH COMPLETION. ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT IS STEP TOWARDS SOLUTION." ACCORDING TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02649 291228Z

PRESS REPORTS OF KHADDAM STATEMENT, FONMIN CONCENTRATED

HIS ATTENTION UPON CRITICIZING ACTIONS OF JUMBLATT AND REITERATING NECESSITY OF SYRO-PALESTINIAN UNITY. HE CLAIMED THAT SYRIA HAD TURNED DOWN AMERICAN OFFER TO NEGOTIATE GOLAN ACCORD SEPARATE FROM PALESTINIAN ISSUE. HE CHARGED JUMBLATT WITH ADVOCATING PARTITION, AS SYMBOLIZED IN HIS LOCAL ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL. HE ASSERTED THAT SYRIA WORKING TO FOIL IMPERIALIST-ZIONIST PLOT AIMED AGAINST LEBANON. KHADDAM REJECTED ACCUSATIONS THAT SYRIA INTENDING IMPOSE CANDIDATE FOR LEBANESE PRESIDENCY.

2. PRESS REPORTED STATEMENT BY ELIAS SARKIS ANNOUNCING HIS CANDIDACY. PRESS FOCUSED ON THREE POINTS OF HIS PROGRAM: REBUILDING STRONG LEBANESE ARMY, SUPPORTING PALESTINIANS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PREVIOUSLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS AND MAINTAINING SOLIDARITY WITH ALL ARAB STATES, SYRIA IN PARTICULAR.

3. PRESS CITED STATEMENTS BY IMAM MUSA SADR, ASAM QANSU, SHAFIQ AL-WAZZAN AND MUFTI HASAN KHALID DENOUNCING LOCAL ADMINISTRATION PLANS AND CRITICIZING PRONENTS OF PARTITION.

4. TISHRIIN COLUMNIST FORCUSED CIRTICISM ON JUMBLATT FOR PLAYING "DOUBLE GAME" OF DEMANDING ELECTION OF NEW PRES. THEN RESORTING TO DELAYING TACTICS WHEN ELECTION ANNOUNCED AND OPPORTUNITY NOT PROVIDED "TO MANEUVER FOR REALIZATION OF PERSONAL GAINS AT EXPENSE OF LEBANESE PUBLIC INTEREST." COLUMNIST CITED AS FURTHER EXAMPLE OF "LAMENTABLE SHORTSIGHTEDNESS" OF JUMBLATT HIS CLAIM THAT ATTEMPT TO SET DATE FOR ELECTION WAS FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS AT SAME TIME HE PRAISING EFFORTS OF AMB. BROWN. WRITER CONCLUDED THAT WAY OUT OF CRISIS WAS BY ELECTION OF PRESIDENT QUALIFIED TO RECONSTRUCT MODERN LEBANON. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST OPINED THAT "DESIRE OF MOST LEBANESE PARTIES TO END FIGHTING AND PREPARE SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR HOLDING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS CONTRIBUTES TOWARD IMPLEMENTING FIRST POSITIVE PHASE FOR RETURN OF NORMAL LIFE, TRANQUILITY AND STABILITY. IT ALSO INDICATES THAT LEBANESE PEOPLE HAVE REALIZED DIMENSIONS OF PLOT HATCHED IN WASHINGTON, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 02649 291228Z

TEL AVIV, AND OTHER CAPITALS."
MURPHY

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